



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

June 2019



**Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager**

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

Important:

Please sign up to receive updates on the latest road construction in town.

[Subscribe to Notifications](#)



Strategic Planning Retreat

**Thursday, June 13,
5:30PM
Kimball Farm
400 Littleton Road**

[Strawberries 'N Arts Festival](#)

**Saturday, June 15th,
10AM - 4PM**

Farmers Market

**Tuesdays from
July 9 - August 27
2:30PM - 6:30PM
Westford Town Common**



Watch
Meetings Online

westford CAT
community access television

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Congratulations to the 2019 graduates from Westford Academy! We are so proud of our students and look forward to hearing of their accomplishments in the future!

The Board of Selectmen and I congratulated Kyla Schultz, Isabel Redman, Niamh McEwan, and Marisol Angelina Evans-Garcia of the Westford Girl Scouts Troop 60560 for receiving the prestigious Gold Award on their High Award Projects. The Selectmen recognized and awarded certificates to the girls at their June 11th meeting.

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Flag Day Ceremony hosted by the Nabnasset American Legion Post 437, at 114 Dunstable Road, on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 6:00PM.

The Selectmen approved the "St. Onge Playground Spruce Up" Team to hold their clean up day at the playground located at 65 Main Street on Saturday, June 15th. Volunteers are welcomed and can sign up at this [Link](#).

The Selectmen approved my request to hold the 2019 Farmers Market on the Town Common on Tuesdays from July 9th through August 27th, 2:30PM to 6:30PM. The market will include entertainment and various farmers and other vendors. We are still accepting new vendors through Tuesday, June 25th. For more information click this link: [Westford Farmers Market](#).

Selectman Almeida announced that the 63 Main Street Task Force is seeking feedback from the public to complete a survey for recommendations and ideas regarding the future use of the residence which was designed in 1893. Also known as the Donald Cameron House, the house is a stately two and one-half story, 10-room Colonial Revival home in Westford Center, with a deep connection to Westford's past. [Click here](#) for more information on the history of 63 Main Street. [Click here](#) for a video of its current condition. The survey is available online at: [63 Main Street Survey](#). The Task Force will also be sharing photos, videos, and chatting with Westford Residents at the following events:

- [Strategic Planning Retreat](#) at Kimball Farm, Thursday June 13th, from 5:30PM – 8:00PM
- [Strawberry & Arts Festival](#) on the Town Common, Saturday June 15th, from 10:00AM – 4:00PM
- [Farmers Market](#) on the Town Common, Tuesday July 9th from 2:30PM – 6:30PM

You may also mark your calendars for our fall Special Town Meeting which is scheduled for 7PM, October 28th, located at the Abbot School gymnasium. The Board of Selectmen opened the warrant on June 11th and the warrant closing date is Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 12:00PM.

Paul Starratt, Town Engineer, Keith Readling, Executive Vice President with Raftelis, and Emily Scerbo, Senior Technical Specialist with Tighe and Bond discussed with the Selectmen stormwater management strategies relative to credits and abatements with different funding methods/options and reviewed a 3-year draft budget. The discussion was continued to the July 23 Board of Selectmen meeting.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Selectmen approved the request to accept gifts from Hanover Company for the construction of a sidewalk along the south side of Littleton Road between Robbins Road and the Red Hat/NETSCOUT driveway, and offsite transportation improvements, transportation services or other uses related to providing services to the residents of the proposed project.

The Pedestrian Safety Committee received the Selectmen's support for the design of sidewalks at Robinson Road (starting at Concord Road to Flagg Road) and to extend the existing sidewalk at Plain Road (starting at Nutting Road to the intersection at Depot Street) during FY 2021. The project is moving forward to the Capital Planning Committee.

Paul Starratt, Town Engineer, updated the Selectman on May 28th of the status of the Oak Hill Road/Route 40 and Dunstable Road/Route 40 Intersection Projects. The projects are moving along as scheduled and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The Westford Town Forest Committee will be conducting a thinning operation in the Gage Forest this summer. The thinning will open up the forest canopy and allow sunlight to reach the forest floor which will encourage younger tree growth. The forest consists of approximately 75 acres, but only about 20 acres will be thinned this summer. The project will be conducted in accordance with the Gage Forest Stewardship Plan that was developed by licensed forester John Robbins and approved by the Westford Board of Selectmen and the Massachusetts State Forester of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

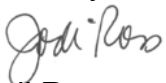
Ebi Maslaehdan, property owner of 66-68 Boston Road, is working with town officials regarding several options for the future of the property and we will have an update within the next month or so.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Water Commissioners, Communications Advisory Committee, Community Center/Mill Works/Recreation Department Task Force, Constable, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, MBTA Advisory Board, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form by clicking this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I hope to see you at our Strategic Planning Retreat on June 13th at 5:30PM at Kimball Farm, 400 Littleton Road, Westford, MA. Click this link to register: [2019 Strategic Planning Retreat](#)

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*AFL Global is welcomed to Westford at
2 Technology Park West Ribbon Cutting.*

June at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.



“A Universe of Stories” is the 2019 Children’s, Teens and Tweens, and Adult Summer Reading Program theme. Registration is ongoing for this Friends’ funded Program.

Please call/visit the Youth Services Department, or check out the [Children’s Summer Reading Program](#) page on our website for more information on this exciting summer-long FUN spree. You can purchase tickets for events and shows at the same time that you register. Some events require tickets for children, parents, and/or caregivers while others are free and drop-in.

All Teen and Tween (grades 5-12) events are FREE thanks to generous funding by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library. Check out the [Teen and Tween Summer Reading](#) page for more information on registration, events, and weekly prizes.

[Register now for the Adult Summer Reading Program](#), which starts on June 24th! Your summer reading goal is up to you: choose to read 1, 3, or 5 books this summer, to read a particular title, or to join a book club. By signing up you are automatically entered into our weekly raffle where you can win a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. You will also be entered into the August 9th Grand Prize Drawing for a Westford-themed gift basket! Once you complete your self-appointed reading goal, come to the Information Services desk to pick up your coupon for a free ice cream cone at Kimball Farm. Check out some new titles and join a Universe of Stories!

All of the Summer Reading Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. and are for Westford residents and non-resident members of the Friends. A Universe of Stories is also sponsored by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Westford Academy Exam Week: Mon. – Thur., June 10th to 13th, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Study for Final Exams at the J.V. Fletcher Library! We offer extra desk space in the Library Meeting Room, as well as FREE coffee and snacks. FREE pizza provided each night at 7pm, first-come-first-served until it’s gone. Extended library hours from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. are for students only with no re-entry after 9 p.m. Prompt parental pick-up required no later than 10 p.m. All materials and snacks at this FREE drop-in event are provided through the generous support of the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library.

J.V. Fletcher Adult Book Club: Thursday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. Please join us to discuss *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty. Copies of the current reading selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New members are always welcome. No registration required. [Check out our Reading List for 2019.](#)

(Continued on next page)

June at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Booktalk with Mayleen and Kristina: Mon., June 17 at 7 p.m. Are you looking for some summer reading recommendations? Growing tired of the same authors? Join Mayleen and Kristina for an informal "Booktalk". During this hour we will talk about books both old and new. No registration required.

Winning College Essays with Joyce Pellino Crane: Thurs., June 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Writing a college essay can be the most challenging and time consuming part of completing admissions applications. Come and learn about ways to brainstorm topics and launch the essay with an interesting hook. Good writing and a well-constructed story make all the difference. We'll talk about how to start your essay, how to keep the reader reading it, and how to trust that a compelling end will come to you. Free. [Register online](#) or call the Information Services Department at 978-399-2304.

Cookbook Club: Thu., June 20 at 7 p.m. The Cookbook Club explores cookbooks and samples new recipes. We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Our June choice is *Barefoot Contessa: Family Style* by Ina Garten. Copies will be available for check out at the Main Desk. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Information Services at 978-399-2309. No registration required.

Ukulele Strum Along: Sat., June 22 at 2 p.m. Learn to play by playing! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Singing is encouraged. Ukuleles available to borrow, songs projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This program is open to adults and teens. [Register online](#) or in Information Services to borrow a ukulele, or just drop in with your own.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., Jun 24 at 10:30 a.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday morning of each month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our June selection is *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie. Copies of the current selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New members are always welcome. No registration required.

Humpback Whale Behaviors in New England: Thu., Jun 27 at 7 p.m. Join photographer Robert Michelson for a narrated slideshow! During this presentation, participants will learn about the behaviors exhibited by New England's most acrobatic whale, the Humpback whale. Still photos and video combine to bring this 40-foot baleen whale to life. See whales breaching, tail slapping, flipper slapping, diving, fluking, close to boat behavior, cross-over, logging and several whales blowing and diving in unison. All ages. FREE! [Register here.](#)

Book Displays: Throughout the library you will see themed displays to inspire new reading selections. This month we will be highlighting musician biographies, cooking on the grill, and gardening. Our displays change monthly so be sure to take a look.



Please visit www.westfordlibrary.org for more information about the library and our upcoming programs.

Health Department

Medical Reserve Corps Certifies Stony Brook 8th Graders in CPR

Twenty-one 8th graders at Stony Brook School in Westford accepted the challenge to certify in CPR on May 22 and 23. To the delight of their parents, teachers, and the teens themselves, each student passed the course with flying colors!



The Heartsaver video allowed students to learn CPR concepts and practice the skills.

The idea to provide CPR training to such a young age group was sparked when science teacher Maureen Severo recertified in CPR last September. The Westford Health Department, host agent for the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit that taught the class, had offered CPR to town residents during Preparedness Month.

Severo collaborated with MRC instructors to bring this training to Stony Brook. This was the first time Westford Schools had offered the class to students who were not yet in high school.

CPR stands for “Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation.” Through compressions on the chest and breaths given at specific intervals, a person whose heart has stopped abruptly has a better chance of survival. Ideally, an AED or “Automated External Defibrillator” is then applied right away, to provide a shock that restores the heartbeat.

All 21 students ended the month of May with new certification cards from the American Heart Association, valid for two years in CPR/AED and choking relief (“Heimlich Maneuver”). Congratulations to the students for their willingness to learn these valuable skills!

An MRC volunteer is shown guiding students in the proper use of an AED.



Heath Department (Continued)

The Westford Health Department, in partnership with the Westford Recreation Department have teamed up with Emerson Hospital and IMPACT melanoma to sponsor sunscreen dispensers at Forge Beach and Edwards Beach. These dispensers were donated to the Town and they will be maintained by IMPACT Melanoma. This is part of an ongoing effort to educate and protect Westford residents on public health issues. Please make sure you are using sunscreen whenever you are spending time out in the sun! For more information, see the press release below:

Emerson Hospital Teams with IMPACT Melanoma to Sponsor 15 Sunscreen Dispensers in Concord and Surrounding Communities

CONCORD, MA (June 3, 2019) – [IMPACT Melanoma](#), a national non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of melanoma, is pleased to announce they have teamed with Emerson Hospital – a highly-regarded community hospital in Concord, Massachusetts. to deploy automatic sunscreen dispensers at 15 high-traffic locations, including parks and recreation facilities, beaches, rail trails, and athletic fields. The dispensers provide complementary sunscreen throughout Concord, Bedford, **Westford**, Hudson, Sudbury, Acton, and Maynard.

“We are very pleased that Emerson Hospital is committed to reducing the number of people diagnosed with skin cancer and is working with us to ensure sunscreen is available in popular and convenient areas this summer,” said Deb Girard, IMPACT’s Executive Director.

Emerson Hospital is sponsoring the bright yellow sunscreen dispensers that are installed throughout the area. The dispensers, manufactured by Bright Guard, are monitored regularly and replenished as needed, ensuring that everyone who needs sunscreen has easy access to it. Bright Guard’s sunscreen is rated and recommended for use by children ages six-months and up, and adults.

“Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the Emerson Hospital service area, according to our recent Community Health Assessment,” notes Christine Gallery, Senior Vice President, Planning and Chief Strategy Officer, Emerson Hospital. “We are proud to support IMPACT Melanoma so that people in our surrounding towns can have fun this summer, while protecting themselves from skin cancer. We anticipate the community will use the sunscreen often and it will become a routine part of their summer safety regimen. We encourage the community to be in touch with a physician with any questions or concerns about their skin.”

About IMPACT Melanoma

IMPACT is a national non-profit organization dedicated to working to reduce the incidence of melanoma. Committed to skin cancer prevention and early detection, we provide a variety of award-winning programs which aim to raise awareness and educate the public about skin cancer, as well as support services for those struggling with the disease. Visit www.IMPACTMelanoma.org.

About Practice Safe Skin

In response to the Surgeon General’s 2014 Call to Action to address skin cancer as a major public concern, IMPACT Melanoma and partner Bright Guard, launched a pilot program called Practice Safe Skin during the summer of 2015 to donate free sunscreen throughout Boston parks and Massachusetts beaches at no cost to taxpayers. Following the success of the pilot program, the Practice Safe Skin initiative is expanding to offer cities and businesses across the country the ability to purchase and provide this public safety program. For more information, visit www.IMPACTMelanoma.org/practice-safe-skin/, call 1-800-557-6352 or email info@IMPACTMelanoma.org.

About Emerson Hospital

Emerson Hospital is a multi-site health system headquartered in Concord, Mass., with additional health centers in Sudbury, Groton and Westford, and urgent care centers in Hudson and Littleton. The 179-bed hospital provides advanced medical services to more than 300,000 individuals in 25 towns. To learn more, visit www.emersonhospital.org.

Cameron Senior Center

Come on down to the Cameron... much to offer our residents age 55+...

Calling for Paddlers!

Once a month during the summer we will have a Cameron Paddler outing out led by Nashoba Paddlers out of Groton located at 398 West Main Street. Expect to paddle 1.5 hours and mark you calendar for Thursday, June 27th at 10AM for this first paddling Cameron experience.

Cost: *Canoe* (2-3 people) \$12 per person for 2 or \$8 per person for 3, *Solo kayak* (1 person) \$20 boat and *Tandem kayak* (2 people) \$13 per person.

Please sign up by Friday June 21st and/or call 978-692-5523.



Breakfast at the Village Restaurant for our Town Veterans and spouse

Thursday, June 13th at 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.

Westford Veterans and their spouses are invited for a complimentary buffet breakfast which we all know will be delicious. Join Katie, Commander Robert Vullo, Town veteran Agent Ryan Cobleigh and many wonderful friends.

Sponsors: **American Legion Post 159, The Village Breakfast Restaurant** and the **Cummings Foundation**. Sign up at 978-692-5523.

FREE! Organic Vegetable Distribution provided by GAINING GROUNDS, Concord, MA.

Distributions: 12:30 every Thursday

We are excited to have our relationship with Gaining Grounds of Concord once again offering their organic produce to all Westford residents that **meet income guidelines**. To participate one must sign an income attestation on the day of produce pick up. This distribution is held at the Westford Housing Authority **at 65 Tadmuck Rd. in the Community Center**. Because this program is so desirable people often arrive early so we will pass out numbers starting at 12:30. The freshly picked vegetables will be distributed at 1:00. Distribution will be every Thursday into the fall. Any questions call Annette at 978-399-2326.

*Income Guidelines are based on Fuel Assistance: Household of 1 \$35,510, HH of 2 \$46,437, HH of 3 \$57,363, HH of 4 \$68,289.

Alzheimer's and related Dementias Caregiver Support Group:

First Wednesday of the month at 6:30p.m. at the Cameron

For additional information, call Sandy at 978-758-6072

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

BINGO and/or Hot dog and burger and night (popular outing)

June 13th and 27th from 4:45-6:00 pm

Due to popular demand, hotdogs and burgers will be served the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month before bingo. A hot dog, chips, drink and dessert setup for \$2.00. A hamburger set up is \$3.00 and it is \$4 for a hotdog and burger combo. Simply pay at the front desk when you arrive. Bingo starts at 7:00.



Key Safe Lock program so important in Wellness Checks and other critical situations

This program with the Fire Dept. has been a huge success with over 25 lock boxes installed at senior's homes. If you live alone, have medical issues or frequently need to call 911 then you are a candidate for a key safe lock box. The box is installed on the outside of your home and it has a keypad with a code (you set) to access a key inside the box. The fire dept, your neighbors and family can have the code to prevent damaging your home to enter in an emergency. For more information about the program call Annette at 978-399-2326.

Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled applications due Thursday, August 1st to the Cameron

Applicants must 65 years or older and/or have a state recognized disability as well as own and own and occupy their home. The TREAD Committee will meet and make award determination in December 2019. If you have any questions or need assistance completing the application please contact Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2326 or Annette Cerullo at 978-399-2326.

Big Time BBQ at Kimball Farm: Friday, July 12th at 12pm Entertainment: Flashback Band

Choice of: • Top Sirloin Burger or Cheeseburger • 1/4 lb. All Beef Hot Dog • Veggie Burger
served with: • Potato Chips & Watermelon • Bottled Water or 1 Soda *Kimball's Legendary Ice Cream Buffet
Activity Options: • One Round of Two Adventure Style 18-hole Mini Golf Courses
• 2 Bumper Boat Rides in our 6,000 sf. Bumper Boat Pond
• 2 Rides on New England's Largest Spin Zone Bumper Cars • 1 Large Bucket of Balls at the Driving Range
• Six games of Bingo with great prizes under the tent

Transportation is available by calling 978-399-2322 and/or if you need assistance with parking please call Katie at 978-399-2330. Cost: Westford resident- \$25 Non-Westford Friends of the Cameron Member- \$32

COA staff manage the Westford Farmers Market on July 30th: Come have fun with us at Town Common!!!!

With the Farmers Market being organized by our Town Manager's Office, varying town departments will oversee the market each Tuesday starting July 9th thru August 27th from 2:30-6:30. Please visit our department booth and learn more about your center. **Also**, in the spirit of this fun time the **UPBEATS Band** will be taking the famed Westford **gazebo stage at 3:00** so bring a blanket or chair to sit and enjoy some good music and **complimentary organic cotton candy and/or organic ice slushes.**

Some participating vendors include: • Aaronap Cellars • Liberty Fish • Evviva Trattoria
• Hubba's Real Pit BBQ • Farmer Francesco's Cookie • Werks Kabob House
• Valicenti Pasta farm and more...

Recycling Commission



NOTICE #1: July 4 is a holiday for trash and recycling. Pickups will be made one day later following the holiday.

NOTICE #2: As of Monday, July 1, 2019, residential and municipal recycling in Westford will be picked up by Waste Management.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this transition. Should you encounter an issue, please call Waste Management at 1-800-972-4545. If your question is not answered, please call the Town Manager's office at 978-692-5501.

Alerts from the Westford Recycling Commission

PLASTIC BAGS, empty or filled, are **NOT** acceptable in recycling bins and totes.

TANGLERS - Cords, coat hangers, light strings, plastic 6-pack rings, garden hoses, wires, strings, ribbons, and chains - **are prohibited** from recycling bins and totes.

CAPS and LIDS – Replace caps and lids on clean bottles, jars, and cans or toss lids in the trash. **Do not discard them separately in recycling.**

PLASTIC YOGURT CUPS – Toss cups in recycle bin. Put aluminum lids in the trash.

BLACK PLASTIC TAKE - OUT CONTAINERS - Put this item in your trash. Clear plastic lids can be rinsed and recycled.

HOME COMPOSTING with an EARTH MACHINE

Composting reduces Westford's trash collection costs and also benefits the environment.

Westford residents can purchase an Earth Machine back yard composter at a discounted price of \$25 by contacting Denise Seyffert at 978-692-6986. It comes with set-up and composting instructions.

Placing fruit and vegetable kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, tea bags, grass clippings, sawdust, pine needles, and leaves in your Earth Machine will produce useable compost called "black gold," a rich soil conditioner.

In 1993, Massachusetts banned yard waste from the trash in an effort to reduce garbage, save money, utilize valuable organic waste, and provide nutrient rich compost for home lawns and gardens. Using compost on the soil adds essential nutrients, improves root growth, and helps retain moisture, which can help lower water bills.

DRAWING FOR FREE EARTH MACHINE

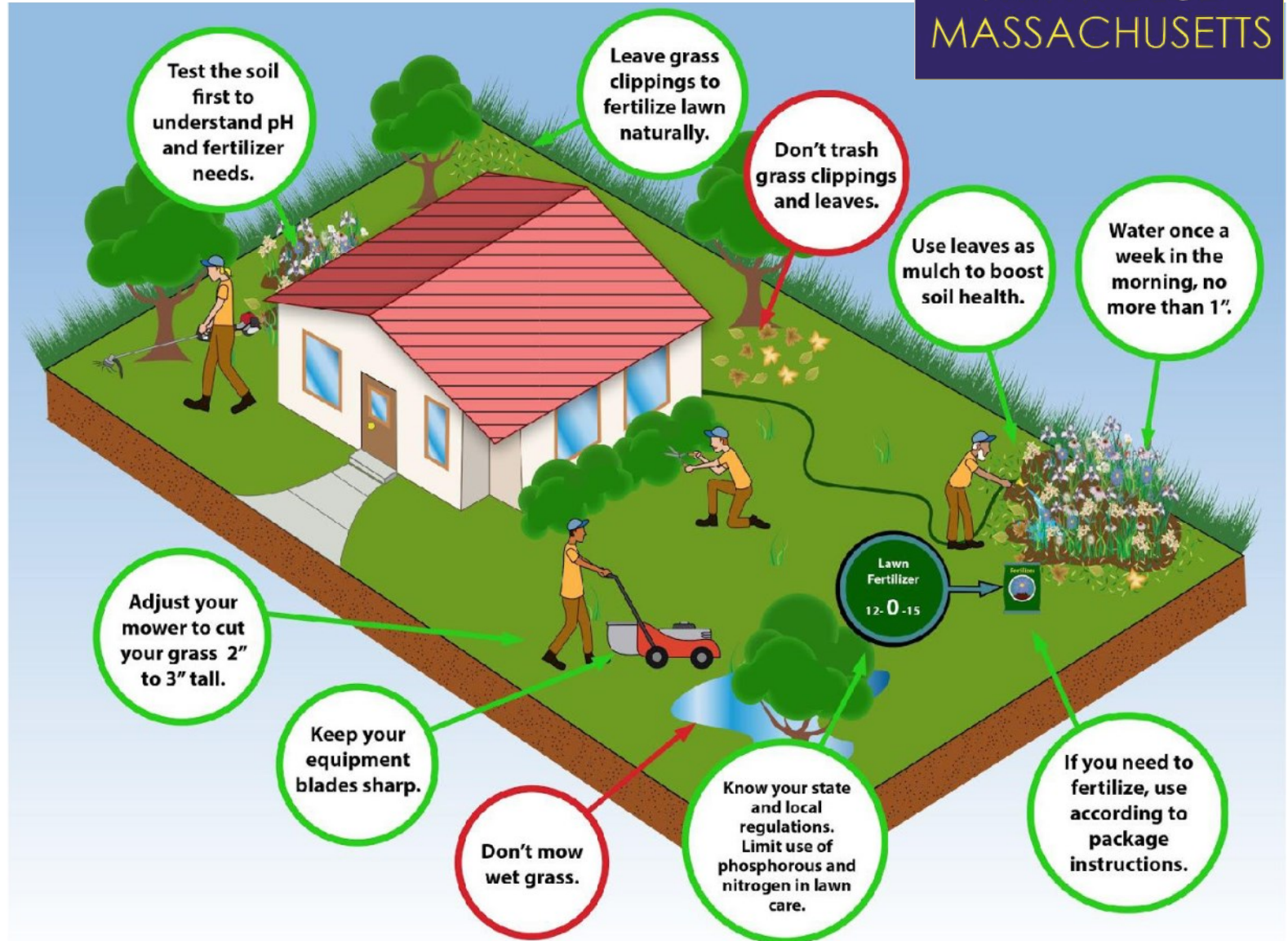
Come to the Westford Farmers' Market on July 23. Visit the Westford Recycling Commission table and enter your name in the drawing for a free Earth Machine.



Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling for your recycling and trash questions.

Engineering Department - Stormwater Management

Lawn and Garden Tips to Help Curb Stormwater Pollution



Under Massachusetts law, only apply fertilizer with phosphorus if:

1. A soil test shows that phosphorus is needed; or
2. During the first growing season for a newly established lawn.

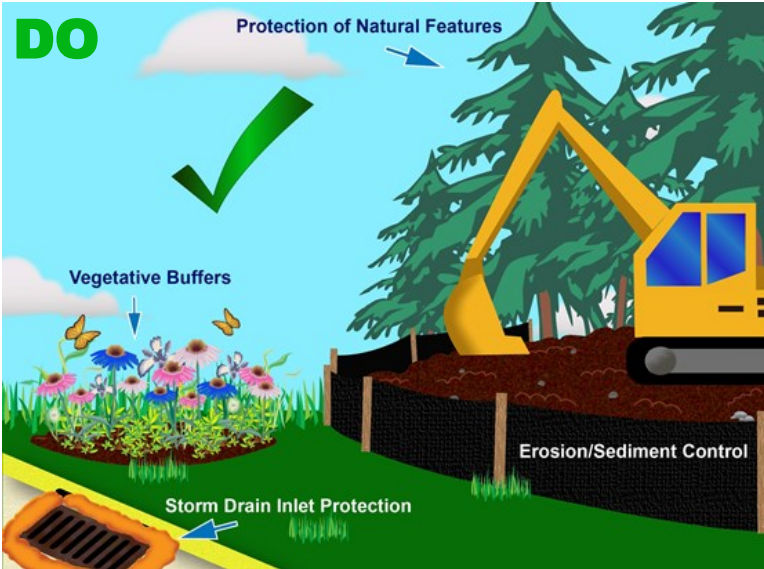
Contact the UMass Cooperative Extension Soil Nutrient Testing Laboratory to learn how to conduct a routine soil test:

<https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>

Learn more at: www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org

Engineering Department - Stormwater Management

Stop Erosion in its Tracks to Keep Our Waters Clean



What Can You Do?

- Consult a professional to find out if you need an EPA Construction General Permit.
- Visit Westford's Conservation Commission & Planning Board before you disturb the soil to determine if an Order of Conditions or Stormwater Management Permit is required.
- Pick a combination of erosion and sediment controls that work for your site.
- Use practices that protect natural landscape features, like streams and wetlands, and stabilize soil.
- You will also need to use practices to protect and maintain silt fences, storm drain inlets, and construction entrances.



Why is this necessary?

- Water that falls on your construction site either soaks into the ground or runs off into storm drains.
- Water and pollution that goes into storm drains eventually ends up in lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Once these pollutants reach waterways, they can harm fish and other wildlife. They can even make our water unsafe to drink.
- Most importantly, allowing polluted runoff to leave your site and enter a storm drain or waterway is against the law.

Learn more at: www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org

